

# Tasburgh Neighbourhood Plan

## Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening Report



**March 2023**

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## **1. Introduction**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to determine if the Tasburgh Neighbourhood Plan requires Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) through a process known as SEA screening.
- 1.2 The Tasburgh Neighbourhood Plan has been commissioned by Tasburgh Parish Council and developed by a Steering Group of residents. A map showing the Neighbourhood Plan area for Tasburgh is in Appendix A. The first draft of the Neighbourhood Plan is being prepared for 'pre-submission consultation' in March. The draft objectives and policies considered in this SEA screening report have not yet been signed off by the Steering Group. Should the draft policies change in a significant way, the SEA screening process will be repeated. The draft policies used in this screening are dated 19<sup>th</sup> January 2023.
- 1.3 This report fulfils the requirements of European Directive 2001/42/EC on the Assessment and Effects of Certain Plans and Programmes on the Environment, and the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 as amended.
- 1.4 This report provides details of the pre-submission Neighbourhood Plan policies and explains the legislative background to SEA screening, before providing an account of the SEA screening exercise for the Tasburgh Neighbourhood Plan.

## **2 The Tasburgh Neighbourhood Plan**

- 2.1 The Tasburgh Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group has developed the draft aims, vision, objectives and policies of the Neighbourhood Plan through community consultation. The purposes of the draft Neighbourhood Plan policies are to build upon policies within the adopted South Norfolk Local Plan and the emerging Greater Norwich Local Plan specifically for the parish of Tasburgh. There are no site allocations for development within the Neighbourhood Plan in addition to those in the Local Plan.
- 2.2 A Data Profile for The Tasburgh Neighbourhood Plan has been completed, which contains information on community infrastructure, housing and the built-environment, transport and access and environment and landscape. Information from the data profile is used within this SEA screening.
- 2.3 The draft aims of the Neighbourhood Plan are to:
  - Engage the whole community in the development of the Plan.
  - Enable Tasburgh residents to influence and shape new development.
  - Allow the village to develop sensitively, in terms of size, identity, location, design, heritage, amenities, green spaces and the environment.
  - Identify other non-planning projects and community needs for the use of developer contributions and other possible funds.

2.4 The Tasburgh Neighbourhood Plan draft vision is:

Tasburgh will continue to be a safe, cohesive, community orientated village with accessible and well-used village amenities. It will be well connected to pedestrians and cyclists. Any development will reflect current and future housing needs, and be environmentally sustainable. Our local heritage assets will be recognised and designated greenspaces will be protected.

2.5 The draft objectives are:

- Objective 1: To protect and enhance the rural character of Tasburgh and its green and open spaces, whilst adapting to climate change.
- Objective 2: To support the future development that reflects local need, which is well designed, suitably located and environmentally sustainable. Development should complement the character of Tasburgh and provide a mix of styles and tenure to suit residents' needs.
- Objective 3: To recognise and protect Tasburgh's heritage assets.
- Objective 4: To encourage safer walking, and connected foot and cycle ways through the Parish.
- Objective 5: To enable a range of suitable amenities which benefit the whole community.

2.6 The draft policies are:

• **Policy TAS1: Natural assets**

In addition to the Local Green Spaces, the following are recognised as important natural assets of the parish due to their landscape and/or biodiversity value, which should be conserved and enhanced:

1. Tas Rural River Valley (Environmentally Sensitive Area)
2. Water meadows, Low Road
3. The Ford, Low Road
4. Horseshoe footpath, Low Road to the Enclosure
5. St Mary's the Virgin churchyard
6. Tasburgh Enclosure
7. Woodland behind Orchard Way
8. Marlpit
9. 1000-year-old oak (veteran tree) on Quaker Lane
10. Natural ponds
11. Ancient grassland

**Enhancing biodiversity**

All development proposals should retain existing features of biodiversity value (including hedgerow and field margins, trees, veteran trees, grass verges, ancient grasslands, ponds and drainage ditches). Development proposals should identify how they will provide a minimum 10 percent net gain in biodiversity through, for example:

- The creation of new natural habitats and improvements to, or connections between fragments of habitats identified above.

- The planting of additional native trees and hedgerows, for screening and landscaping purposes.
- Green areas between and in new developments.
- Soft site boundaries to new developments where adjacent to agricultural land, open spaces or settlement edge, through native hedgerows.
- Integrated bird boxes or nesting sites for hirundines, house sparrows, starlings and provision for bat boxes on the site.

Where loss or damage is unavoidable, the development shall provide for appropriate replacement planting or appropriate natural features on site together with a method statement for the ongoing care and maintenance of that planting.

- **Policy TAS2: Local Green Spaces**

The following areas are designated as Local Green Spaces for special protection:

1. Playing field and play area at Village Hall
2. Pear Tree field off Everson Road
3. Burrfield Park
4. Chestnut Road play area
5. Village green
6. Tasburgh allotments
7. The triangle, Grove Lane

The management of development within areas of Local Green Space will be consistent with that for development within Green Belts as set out in national policy.

- **Policy TAS3: Important local views**

Development proposals must respect their landscape setting including any identified important local views within which they are located, or which they affect. The following views are identified as important in Tasburgh:

1. From corner of Church Hill and Grove Lane westwards
2. From Quaker Lane looking south southwest over the water meadow
3. From the Village Hall playing field looking north and northwest
4. From the Ford looking up northwest
5. From Saxlingham Lane looking up Rainthorpe Hall Drive
6. From the northeastern corner of the enclosure looking southwest towards St Mary's Church
7. From the Horseshoe footpath looking north and northwest

Development proposals within or affecting an important local view must demonstrate how they have taken account of the view concerned.

- **Policy TAS4: Climate change, flood risk and surface water drainage issues**  
All development will be expected to demonstrate how it can mitigate its own flooding and drainage impacts, avoid an increase of flooding elsewhere and seek to achieve lower than greenfield runoff rates for flooding. All proposals for new development within the Plan area should take account of the advice and guidance on surface water drainage and the mitigation of flood risk obtainable from Norfolk County Council (as Lead Local Flood Authority) and the relevant Internal Drainage Board (as statutory Drainage Board for the Plan area).

Development proposals within the immediate locality of Low Road, on the western side from Burrfield Park to beyond Flordon Hill, are identified as having localised surface water drainage issues and should take account of all relevant evidence of flooding.

All development should demonstrate how it has taken into account the need to mitigate and adapt to climate change, see Design Code.

- **Policy TAS5: Dark skies**  
Development proposals must take account of Tasburgh's existing dark skies and seek to limit the impact of light pollution from artificial light. Street lighting is not permitted on any development.

For individual dwellings lighting necessary for security or safety should be designed to minimise the impact on dark skies by, for example, minimal light spillage, use of downlighting and restricting hours of lighting. Lighting likely to cause disturbance or risk to wildlife should not be permitted.

- **Policy TAS6: Design guidelines and codes**  
The design of all new development in Tasburgh should reflect the parish's local distinctiveness and character.

Proposals for new development should accord with the principles in the Tasburgh Design Guidelines and Codes.

- **Policy TAS7: Housing location, pattern and scale**  
**Location of new housing**

New residential development should be focused in Upper Tasburgh, where it can best integrate with existing development, taking advantage of the proximity to existing community infrastructure, public transport on A140 and safe pedestrian and cycle routes. Proposals for all new development should enhance the form and character of the village and be physically connected to the existing built up area.

Development within Lower Tasburgh will only be supported within the Settlement Boundary, according to the Tasburgh Design Guidance and Codes.

## **Gap between Upper and Lower Tasburgh**

All new development should respect and retain the rural nature of the parish, in particular the separation between Upper and Lower Tasburgh. Development that would individually or cumulatively erode the physical or visual separation of the two areas of the parish will not be supported, with the exception of the Village Hall site. In particular, development that encroaches on the locality of the 'historic core', listed buildings, Non-designated Heritage Assets and associated views, 1, 6 and 7, will not be supported.

## **Infill and windfall development**

Within the settlement boundaries of Upper and Lower Tasburgh, infill and windfall development will only be supported where the proposal will:

- a. Enhance the form and character of the immediate area (see Character Appraisal in the Design Code).
- b. Reflect the materials, scale, density, separation, massing and layout of the immediate area (see Character Appraisal).
- c. Have on-site parking.

- **Policy TAS8: Housing mix**

Major residential development proposals should provide for a housing mix (size, type and tenure) that meets housing needs, with a view to enabling a mixed community.

## **Size and type of properties**

In line with the findings of the Tasburgh Housing Needs Assessment, major residential development proposals should provide a well-balanced mix of housing sizes:

- Small and mid-sized homes – particularly 2-bedroom starter homes and homes for downsizing
- 3-bedroom properties
- Bungalows

A significant proportion of large homes (4+ bedrooms) should be avoided.

## **Affordable Housing**

In line with the findings of the Tasburgh Housing Needs Assessment, a greater proportion of Affordable Housing is required in Tasburgh above the minimum required by the Local Plan. Major residential development proposals should provide for a housing mix, which includes the following Affordable Housing:

- Social rents
- First Homes, at 40 per cent discount level
- Shared ownership

### **Specialist housing**

Specialist housing is encouraged, particularly for older people. A greater number of homes should be built to the adopted accessible and adaptable dwellings standards, inline with the requirements of South Norfolk Council's policy.

- **Policy TAS9: Land north of Church Road and west of Tasburgh School**

In addition to the requirements of the Local Plan for the site, the site should include the following:

- a. Mixed type and tenure of housing, including Affordable Housing.
- b. Vehicle access onto Church Road.
- c. Pedestrian and cycle access onto Henry Preston Road.
- d. Creation of a new children's play area.
- e. Public open green space located at the front of the development off Church Road.
- f. Soft site boundaries adjacent to agricultural land, on the northwest and northeast boundary.
- g. No street lighting.

- **Policy TAS10: Business development**

New or expanded business and employment uses will be supported where development proposals have taken account of the Tasburgh Design Guidance and Codes and demonstrated respect for the character of the rural area, residential amenity and highway safety. Light industrial and retail development on the A140 is particularly encouraged where it provides local employment opportunities. All new or expanded business development should be adjacent to existing businesses on the A140.

New dwellings should provide for high-speed digital connectivity. Development providing space for homeworking, including home offices, will be supported.

- **Policy TAS11: Historic Core and Non-designated Heritage Assets**

The area shown on figure X (figure will be included in the Neighbourhood Plan) is identified locally as an important 'historic core' due to the setting of the Tasburgh Enclosure (Scheduled Monument) and St Mary the Virgin Church, round tower church (Grade I listed building).

In addition to the parish's designated assets (Listed buildings and the Scheduled Monument), a number of buildings or structures are identified as Non-designated Heritage Assets due to their locally important character and historic features:

1. Barn Lodge, Church Road, Upper Tasburgh
2. Farm House, Church Road/Woodland Rise, Upper Tasburgh
3. Birch Grove, Church Road/Woodland Rise, Upper Tasburgh
4. Local Authority early pre-war and post-war housing, Church Road, Upper Tasburgh
5. Old School House, Church Hill, Lower Tasburgh



6. Primitive Methodist Chapel, Church Hill, Lower Tasburgh
7. Tasburgh Grange, Low Road, Lower Tasburgh
8. The Malthouse, Low Road, Lower Tasburgh
9. Grange Meadow, Low Road, Lower Tasburgh
10. Forge Cottage, Low Road, Lower Tasburgh
11. Bramble Cottage/Green More Cottage, Low Road, Lower Tasburgh
12. Wayside Cottage/Jasmine Cottage, Low Road, Lower Tasburgh
13. Commerce House, Low Road, Lower Tasburgh
14. Mill Barn, Low Road, Lower Tasburgh
15. Waterloo Cottage/Mill View Cottage, Flordon Road, Lower Tasburgh
16. Old Post Office Cottage, Low Road, Lower Tasburgh
17. Tasburgh Hall, Corner Low Road, B1135
18. Taas Ford, Low Road next to Forge Cottage, Lower Tasburgh

Development proposals should conserve these heritage assets in a manner appropriate to their significance. Proposals affecting a Non-designated Heritage Asset should give consideration to:

- The character, distinctiveness and important features of the heritage asset;
- The setting of the heritage asset and its relationship to its immediate surroundings;

The contribution that the heritage asset makes to the character of the area.

- **Policy TAS12: Public Rights of Way, footpaths and cycleways**

New development should contribute to an enhanced and joined up network of Public Rights of Way (footpaths and cycleways) suitable for all users. New provision should encourage alternatives to using private cars. Footpaths and cycle ways should be visible and separate from roads where possible, for example such as Grove Lane.

The provision of new footpaths and cycleways will be supported, in particular where there are opportunities to

- a. Make connections through developments and enable a cohesive village network
- b. Connect to Long Stratton and other surrounding parishes
- c. Enable safe routes to Preston CE VC Primary School, and other schools where possible
- d. Link to existing community infrastructure
- e. Link to the Boudicca Way trail
- f. Link to the Rebellion Way cycleway
- g. Link to Horseshoe Way footpath
- h. Enable access to open countryside

- **Policy TAS13: Existing and new community infrastructure**

Tasburgh parish has the following existing community infrastructure:

1. Tasburgh Village Hall, including the Sports and Social Club, tennis courts, playing field and play area
2. Chestnut Road play area
3. Pear Tree field off Everson Road
4. St Mary the Virgin Church, with adjoining church room
5. Burrfeld Park
6. Tasburgh allotments
7. Tasburgh Enclosure (Scheduled Monument)
8. Preston CE VC Primary School
9. The Countryman public house

Improvements to existing community infrastructure will be supported in principle. Proposals for change of use, involving a potential loss of existing community infrastructure, will only be supported where:

- i. an improved or equivalent facility can be located in an equally or more accessible location in the parish,
- ii. or where it can be demonstrated that there is no reasonable prospect of continued viable use.

Proposals for the following new community infrastructure will be supported and should be in line with other policies:

- a. Additional allotments
- b. Recreational land
- c. A convenience/small shop (as a stand-alone building or an extension to an existing community asset)
- d. A central green space/village green
- e. A new play area
- f. Public electric vehicle charging points

- **Policy TAS14: The village hall site**

Any proposals for the redevelopment of the village hall site will be supported in principle. This could take the form of an extension to the existing building, or a replacement building, and should enable further community and/or business use. Proposals that provide for the following activities will be encouraged:

- New hall space
- Extension to Social Club
- Working/business spaces
- Café
- A convenience/small shop

Where possible any redevelopment should meet the highest environmental standards, aiming for carbon neutrality.

### **3. Legislative Background**

- 3.1 European Directive 2001/42/EC on the Assessment of the Effects of Certain Plans and Programmes on the Environment ('SEA Directive') introduces the need to undertake a strategic environmental assessment ('SEA') during the development of some plans and programmes. The main purpose of SEA, according to Article 1 of the SEA Directive, is:

'to provide for a high level of protection of the environment and to contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans and programmes with a view to promoting sustainable development.'

- 3.2 The SEA Directive is transcribed into UK law through the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004, which establishes the requirement to undertake a sustainability appraisal (SA) for some documents used for planning purposes. The SA process incorporates the requirement for SEA, but typically has a broader scope and considers the social and economic issues in addition to the environmental effects.
- 3.3 The requirement to undertake SA of supplementary planning documents (SPD) was removed by the Planning Act 2008. However, the need to establish whether the planning document requires SEA, through the SEA Directive, remains. Articles 2 and 3 of the SEA Directive explain which plans and programmes require SEA. The Government's Planning Practice Guidance, suggests that an SPD will only require an SEA in exceptional circumstances, if they are likely to have significant environmental effects that have not already been assessed through the preparation of the Local Plan.
- 3.4 The Neighbourhood Planning (General) (Amendment) Regulations 2015 amends the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2013 to provide clarification on the SEA related documents which must be submitted alongside neighbourhood planning proposals. Regulation 2(4) of the amendment regulations 2015 adds to the list of documents that a neighbourhood planning group must submit to a local planning authority with a proposal for a neighbourhood plan, which is presented in regulation 6 of the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations 2012. The additional document which must be submitted is either an environmental report, should SEA be required, or a statement of reasons why an environmental assessment is not required.
- 3.5 The UK left the EU on 31st January 2020. Under the UK-EU withdrawal agreement, a transition period ended on 31st December 2020, during which time all EU law continued to apply to the UK. During the transition period the UK needed to continue following domestic law that implements EU law, or directly applicable EU law that is given effect through the EUWA 2018. Beyond the transition period, the SEA Regulations, which previously implemented the requirements of the SEA

Directive in England, will continue to apply as before unless and until new legislation is introduced.<sup>1</sup>

#### **4. An overview of the screening assessment**

- 4.1 Figure 1 overleaf is taken from 'A practical guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive' and illustrates the process for screening a Neighbourhood Plan to ascertain whether a full SEA is required (Article numbers relate to European Directive 2001/42/EC).
- 4.2 The screening for The Tasburgh Neighbourhood Plan is highlighted in orange. To carry out the screening process it is necessary to consider each of the criteria set out in Figure 1, this is done in Table 1 on the following page.
- 4.3 Table 2 addresses criteria 8 by considering if the pre-submission draft Neighbourhood Plan is likely to have a significant effect on the environment. This is done by considering the Plan against the criteria for determining the likely significance of effects referred to in the Directive<sup>2</sup>. The criteria are listed in Table 2 of this document.
- 4.4 Once the process set out in Figure 1 has been completed, a screening outcome can be reached and the conclusion can be found in section 5.

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<sup>1</sup> [www.neighbourhoodplanning.org/toolkits-and-guidance/understand-plan-requires-strategic-environmental-assessment-sea/](http://www.neighbourhoodplanning.org/toolkits-and-guidance/understand-plan-requires-strategic-environmental-assessment-sea/) Information obtained 20.01.2023

<sup>2</sup> Article 3.5 of European Directive 2001

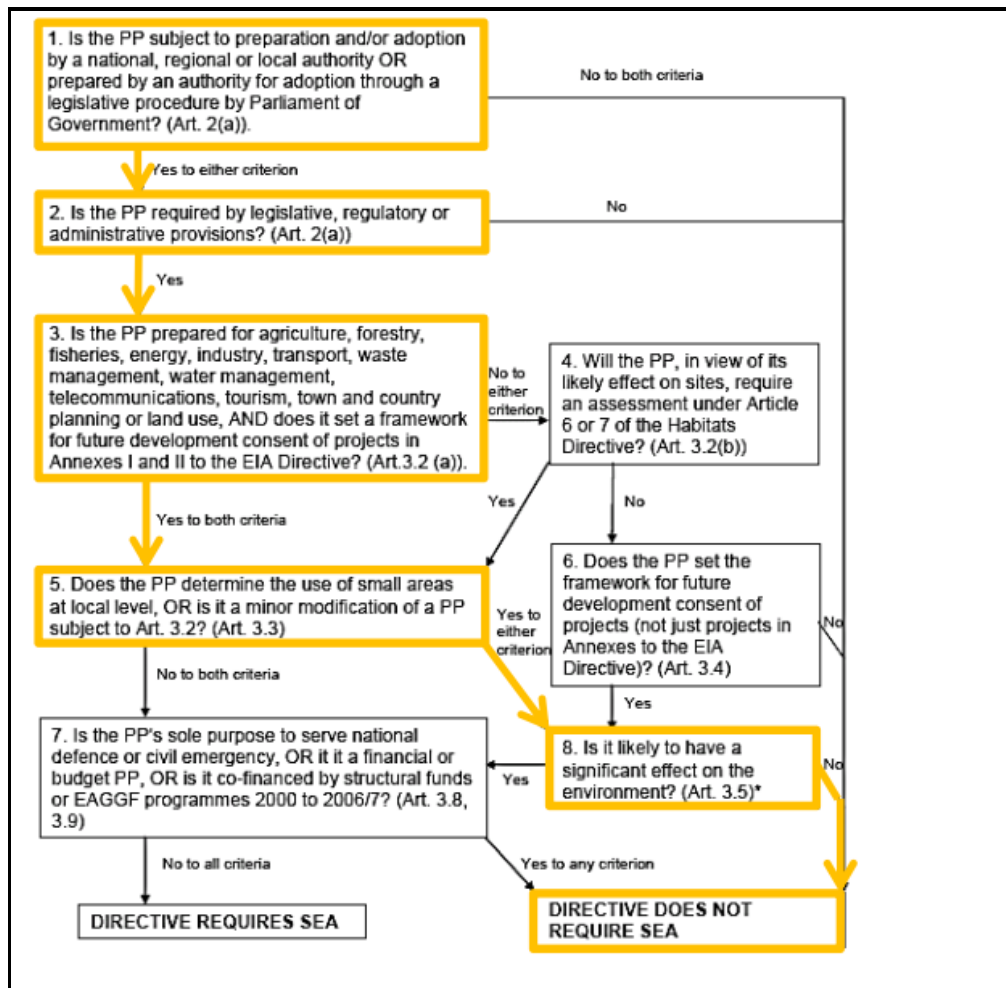


Figure 1 above: Application of the SEA Directive to Neighbourhood Plans.

## 5. The assessment of the Tasburgh Neighbourhood Plan

Table 1 below assesses the need for full SEA of The Tasburgh Neighbourhood Plan. The criteria in Table 1 are drawn from Figure 1 which sets out how the SEA Directive should be applied.

**Table 1: Assessment of the Need for SEA for The Tasburgh Neighbourhood Plan**

| Assessment Criteria   | Assessment | Reason   |
|---|------------|--|
| 1. Is the Plan subject to preparation and/or adoption by a national, regional or local authority OR prepared by an authority for adoption through a legislative procedure by Parliament or Government? (Art. 2(a0))   | <b>Yes</b> | The intention is for the Tasburgh Neighbourhood Plan to be adopted by South Norfolk Council through a legislative procedure.   |
| 2. Is the Plan required by legislative, regulatory or administrative provisions? (Art. 2(a))  | <b>Yes</b> | The Tasburgh Neighbourhood Plan would be a statutory document, prepared in accordance with the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 as amended.   |
| 3. Is the Plan prepared for agriculture, forestry, fisheries, energy, industry, transport, waste management, water management, telecommunications, tourism, town and country planning or land use, AND does it set a framework for future development consent of projects in Annexes I and II to the EIX Directive? | <b>Yes</b> | The Tasburgh Neighbourhood Plan is a document prepared for town and country planning purposes. It aims to influence and shape new development in line with the South Norfolk Plan and emerging Greater Norwich Local Plan. |
| 5. Does the plan determine the use of small areas at local level, OR is it a minor modification of a Plan or Programme subject to Art. 3.2?   | <b>Yes</b> | The Tasburgh Neighbourhood Plan will determine the use of small areas at a local level and contains no site allocations for development.   |
| 8. Is it likely to have a significant effect on the environment (Article 3.5)?  | <b>No</b>  | Justification is given for this decision in Table 2.   |

The final question in the SEA screening process for the Tasburgh Neighbourhood Plan was question 8: Is it likely to have a significant effect on the environment? In asking this question, the SEA Directive refers to Article 3.5, which states that the relevant criteria in Annex II of the SEA Directive shall be considered when determining whether there are likely

to be significant effects. Table 2 below, uses the criteria in Annex II to determine if the Tasburgh Neighbourhood Plan requires SEA.

**Table 2: Determining the Likely Significant Effects of the of the Tasburgh Neighbourhood Plan on the Environment.**

| Criteria in Annex II of the SEA Directive   | Assessment   | Is there a Significant Environmental effect? |
|---|--|--|
| <b>(1) Characteristics of the plan and programmes, having regard, in particular, to:</b><br>The degree to which the plan or programme sets a framework for projects and other activities, either with regard to the location, nature, size and operating conditions or by allocating resources. | The draft Neighbourhood Plan sets a framework for development within the parish in accordance with the South Norfolk Local Plan and the emerging Greater Norwich Local Plan. The draft Neighbourhood Plan builds upon the existing framework by providing some additional details of the nature of development and supplements the existing policy on a local scale only. There are no site allocations within the Neighbourhood Plan. | <b>No</b>                                    |
| The degree to which the plan or programme influences other plans or programmes including those in a hierarchy.  | The Tasburgh Neighbourhood Plan will be adopted alongside the South Norfolk Local Plan and provides supplementary information on a local scale rather than influencing the overall direction of the Local Plan.  | <b>No</b>                                    |
| The relevance of the plan for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development.   | The policies in the Neighbourhood Plan promote sustainable development through protecting and enhancing the green and open character of the parish including designated Local Green Spaces, improving surface water drainage issues, protecting views of community importance, protecting natural assets and dark skies and aims to retain and enhance biodiversity.   | <b>No</b>                                    |
| Environmental problems relevant to the plan or programme.   | There are no environmental problems relevant to the Neighbourhood Plan.  | <b>No</b>                                    |
| The relevance of the plan or programme for the implementation of community legislation on the environment (e.g. plans and programmes linked to waste management or water protection).   | The Neighbourhood Plan is in conformity with the South Norfolk Local Plan and is therefore not directly relevant to the implementation of other European legislation.  | <b>No</b>                                    |

| Criteria in Annex II of the SEA Directive  | Assessment   | Is there a Significant Environmental effect? |
|--|--|--|
| <b>(2) Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regard, to:</b><br>The probability, duration, frequency, and reversibility of the effects.   | The overall impacts of the Neighbourhood Plan will be in accordance with the Local Plan and unlikely to have significant effects.  | <b>No</b>                                    |
| The cumulative nature of the effects.  | The Neighbourhood Plan will not lead to significant cumulative negative effects.   | <b>No</b>                                    |
| The transboundary nature of the effects.   | The Neighbourhood Plan is unlikely to have an impact on neighbouring parishes.   | <b>No</b>                                    |
| The risks to human health or the environment (e.g. due to accidents).  | The Neighbourhood Plan is unlikely to introduce significant risks to human health or the environment.  | <b>No</b>                                    |
| The magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected.)  | The Neighbourhood Plan area covers the civil parish of Tasburgh, which has a resident population of 1149 (2011 Census). The Neighbourhood Plan policies are unlikely to have a significant impact on a wider geographical area or population. There are no site allocations in the Neighbourhood Plan.   | <b>No</b>                                    |
| The value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected by the plan due to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Special natural characteristics or cultural heritage</li> <li>- Exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values</li> <li>- Intensive land use</li> <li>- The effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, Community or international protection status.</li> </ul> | The Neighbourhood Plan policies should protect and enhance the green and open character of the parish and protect Non-designated Heritage Assets. Part of the parish is within the Broads Environmentally Sensitive Area. This is conserved and enhanced through Policy TAS1. The Neighbourhood Plan does not include any site allocations and should contribute to achieving sustainable development in the parish. | <b>No</b>                                    |



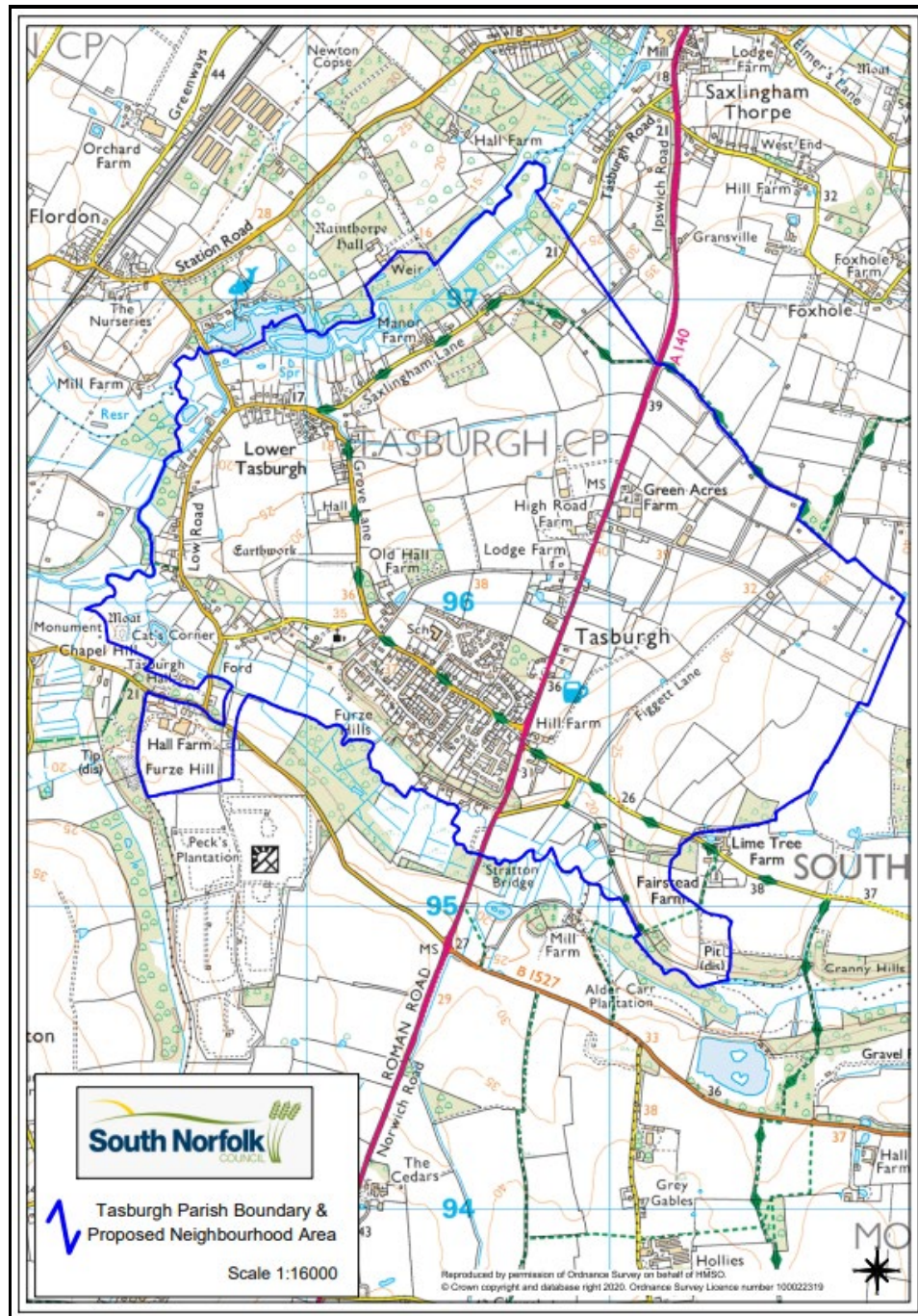
## **5. Screening Outcome**

As a result of the findings in Table 1 and Table 2, it is concluded that the Tasburgh Neighbourhood Plan is not likely to have significant environmental effects and full SEA is not required. There are no site allocations within the Neighbourhood Plan.

The three statutory consultation bodies, Historic England, Natural England and the Environment Agency were consulted regarding the screening outcomes of this report, in accordance with regulation 9(2) of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004. Responses were received from Natural England and Historic England in agreement that full SEA is not required. The responses can be seen in Appendix B.

## Appendix A: Map showing the Tasburgh Neighbourhood Plan Area

Source: South Norfolk Council



## Appendix B: Responses from Historic England and Natural England.

**From:** James, Edward <Edward.James@HistoricEngland.org.uk>  
**Sent:** 09 March 2023 14:00  
**To:** Victoria West  
**Subject:** RE: PL00792465 - Tasburgh Neighbourhood Plan SEA and HRA Screening Reports

Dear Vicky,

Thank you for inviting Historic England to comment on this consultation. As the Government's adviser on the historic environment Historic England is keen to ensure that the protection of the historic environment is fully taken into account at all stages and levels of the local planning process. Therefore we welcome this opportunity to review the Screening Report for this plan. For the purposes of this consultation, Historic England will confine its advice to the question, "Is it (the Tasburgh Neighbourhood Plan) likely to have a significant effect on the historic environment?". Our comments are based on the information supplied with the Screening Opinion.

The Screening Report indicates that the Council considers that the plan will not have any significant effects on the historic environment. We note that the plan does not propose to allocate any sites for development.

On the basis of the information supplied, and in the context of the criteria set out in Schedule 1 of the Environmental Assessment Regulations [Annex II of 'SEA' Directive], Historic England considers that the preparation of a Strategic Environmental Assessment **is not required**.

The views of the other two statutory consultation bodies should be taken into account before the overall decision on the need for an SEA is made.

I should be pleased if you can send a copy of the determination as required by REG 11 of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004.

We should like to stress that this opinion is based on the information provided by you with your correspondence. To avoid any doubt, this does not reflect our obligation to provide further advice on later stages of the SEA process and, potentially, object to specific proposals which may subsequently arise (either as a result of this consultation or in later versions of the plan) where we consider that, despite the SEA, these would have an adverse effect upon the environment.

Historic England strongly advises that the conservation and archaeological staff of the relevant local authorities are closely involved throughout the preparation of the plan and its assessment. They are best placed to advise on; local historic environment issues and priorities, including access to data held in the Historic Environment Record (HER), how the allocation, policy or proposal can be tailored to minimise potential adverse impacts on the historic environment; the nature and design of any required mitigation measures; and opportunities for securing wider benefits for the future conservation and management of heritage assets.

Please do contact me, either via email or the number below, if you have any queries.

Kind regards,

Edward

Edward James  
Historic Places Adviser - East of England  
Historic England



**Historic England**  
Brooklands | 24 Brooklands Avenue | Cambridge | CB2 8BU  
[www.historicengland.org.uk](http://www.historicengland.org.uk)



Dear Victoria West

**Tasburgh Neighbourhood Plan – SEA and HRA screening report consultation**

Thank you for your consultation on the above dated 02 February 2023 which was received by Natural England on the same date.

Natural England is a non-departmental public body. Our statutory purpose is to ensure that the natural environment is conserved, enhanced, and managed for the benefit of present and future generations, thereby contributing to sustainable development.

Where Neighbourhood Plans could have significant environmental effects, they may require a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) under the Environment Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (as amended). Further guidance on deciding whether the proposals are likely to have significant environmental effects and the requirements for consulting Natural England on SEA are set out in the [planning practice guidance](#).

Planning practice guidance also outlines that if an appropriate assessment is required for your neighbourhood plan this will also engage the need for a SEA. One of the basic conditions that will be tested by the independent examiner is whether the neighbourhood plan is compatible with European obligations, including those under the SEA Directive. Where a SEA is required it should be prepared in accordance with [regulation 12](#) of the SEA Regulations.

Where a neighbourhood plan could potentially affect a 'habitats site', it will be necessary to screen the plan in relation to the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations (2017), as amended (the 'Habitats Regulations'). Where likely significant effects are identified, it will be necessary to undertake an appropriate assessment of the neighbourhood plan and, if needed, identify and secure appropriate mitigation measures to ensure the plan does not result in an adverse effect on the integrity of the habitats site.

Natural England welcomes the Screening Reports which assess the requirement for SEA and Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) for the Tasburgh Neighbourhood Plan.

Natural England agrees with the conclusions of the reports that it is not likely there will be significant environmental effects arising from the policies in the plan, which have not already been accounted for within the adopted local plan. Therefore, the Tasburgh Neighbourhood Plan does not require a SEA to be undertaken. Natural England also agrees that the Plan would be unlikely to result in any significant effect to European Sites, either alone or in combination, and therefore an appropriate assessment under the Habitats Regulations is not required.

Aside from this, Natural England have no specific comments at this stage. We would be happy to

comment further should the need arise. For any queries relating to the specific advice in this letter only please contact Gemma Clark [REDACTED]. For any new consultations, or to provide further information on this consultation please send your correspondences to [consultations@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:consultations@naturalengland.org.uk).

Yours sincerely

Gemma Clark  
Norfolk & Suffolk Team